

ATTORNEY DOCKET: AUS920011006US1

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SECTION III: REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that the changes as noted above in Section I be made to the present application.

As herein amended, the "Related Applications" paragraph has been updated to include the Serial Numbers of the related applications.

In the above-identified Office Action mailed 12/27/2005, it was indicated that claims 3-5 and 13-15 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. As herein presented, claim 3 has been re-written as independent claim 1 to include the substance of allowable dependent claim 3 and intervening claim 2 and is submitted to be in condition for allowance. The dependency of claim 4 has also been amended to be consistent with the above-noted change and original claims 2 and 3 have herein been cancelled without prejudice. Dependent claims 4-10, which ultimately depend from and include all of the limitations of amended claim 1, are now also submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Similarly, claim 13 has been re-written as independent claim 11 to include the substance of allowable dependent claim 13 and intervening claim 12. The dependency of claim 14 has also been amended to be consistent with the above-noted change and original claims 12 and 13 have herein been cancelled without prejudice. Dependent claims 14-20, which ultimately depend from and include all of the limitations of amended claim 11, are now also submitted to be in condition for allowance.

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Also, independent claim 21 has herein been amended to include the allowable subject matter of original claims 3 and 13 and are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

In the above referenced Office Action, claims 1, 11 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Harrison (U.S. Patent 6,249,914); claims 6 and 16, as well as claims 8 and 18 were also rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Harrison; claims 2 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrison in view of Johnson (U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2002/0010941); claims 7 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrison in view of Marcis (U.S. Patent 6,862,611); claims 2, 9, 10 12, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrison in view of Sampsell (U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2002/0057209); and claims 10 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrison in view of Skinner (U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2002/0177473).

The above noted rejections are respectfully traversed. However, in order to further the prosecution of the present application, and without waiving any of applicant's rights to argue the allowability of the originally presented claims in a subsequent appeal or other proceeding in the event that the Examiner does not concur that the present amendment places the application in condition for allowance, applicant has herein amended the claims to include what was indicated as being allowable subject matter of original claims 3-5 and 13-15, thereby rendering the above-noted rejections moot in view of the amendments to the claims as herein presented.

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Therefore, as herein presented, claims 1, 4-11 and 14-21 are believed to be in condition for allowance, an early notice of which is hereby requested. If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting the allowance of this application, and especially if one or more new references are cited, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below, prior to the issuance of another Office Action, in order to allow the applicant the opportunity to further amend the claims by Supplemental Amendment or Examiner's Amendment, as may be appropriate, to place the claims in condition for allowance. The Examiner's attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

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